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## Amendments to the Specification:

Please <u>replace</u> the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Such a data carrier of the type defined in the opening paragraph is known from the document WO 00/26868 US Patent 6.507,130, "DATA CARRIER WITH PROTECTION AGAINST SPY OUT", issued 14 January 2003 to Peter Thueringer and Edgar Rieger and is formed by a transponder of a smart card. The known data carrier is adapted to communicate communication data from or to a base station via a contact pad of the smart card. The data carrier has processing means for processing the communication data received via the contact pad or to be output via the contact pad.

Please <u>replace</u> the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The data carrier 2 includes processing means 4 for processing the communication data KD1 received from the base station and the communication data KD2 to be transferred to the base station. The processing means 4 include, for example, a microprocessor of the type 80C51, a co-processor for encrypting and decrypting confidential information or data, memory means (ROM) for the storage of a processing program and intermediate memory means (RAM).

Please <u>delete</u> the Abstract of the invention in its entirety, and add the following <u>new</u> Abstract:

AT-000034 Amendment 4.514

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A data carrier that communicates confidential data is configured to mask process-dependent power consumption by using power stored in an internal capacitor. The capacitor is initially charged to the voltage of an external power source, and then decoupled from the external power source. The capacitor provides power to an internal processor, and consequently discharges gradually. At the end of a given time interval, the capacitor is discharged to a fixed voltage, then charged to the supply voltage. In this manner the power consumed by charging of the capacitor is decoupled from the power consumed by the processor. If the capacitor drops below a threshold voltage before processing is completed, the processor is halted. To optimize the available processing time, the time interval before discharging the capacitor to the fixed voltage is dynamically adjusted to reduce the time that the processor is halted.

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